

JL, re Lardner's today's HSCA/Marcello JFK plotter story HW 7/21/79

If you haven't guessed I'm the "other source" who provided the lead of the story. I read that report to George over the phone when he called me yesterday.

The way he handled it is ambivalent but I am inclined to think that the end product is that the story in general makes no sense.

I'm inclined to believe that what is taken from it may be what people who read it believed before reading it.

The part George did not use is provocative. A man who apparently was Trafficante's lawyer was the FBI's unhidden source. No obliteration of Frank Ragano.

There is some ellipsis and some information not attached. One interpretation can be that Trafficante wore a tape recorder for the FBI, which does seem a bit hard to believe.

This or another report I had with it in a subject file make it fairly clear how Trafficante got out of Castro's jail - without any Ruby connection with it.

George was going over a volume of staff reports. He read me the portions he uses in the story, or at least told me of most. Some sound familiar so I believe I have those records but did not make separate copies because that is impossible for all records and my impression must have been that the story simply was not credible.

There are probably more Ragano reports that I've not seen.

Because Rae was here to run the steps for me I could give the info I had to Lardner. It took several trips as different files suggested themselves.

For those with think about news stories they read inclusion of the time correlation with Garrison may provide some basis for judgement or evaluation. It is much more of a factor that I told George. I think I sent you a copy of the records I have in mind, what else the FBI then did.

I did not ask George for anonymity and I did not ask him to be credited.

I'll reread the story after Lil finishes with the paper.

Because the story begins with the record HSCA avoided I believe it says they did less than a thorough investigation of the only conspiracy they alleged re JFK.

If Wasserman has any interest in these files he's welcome to access. If he wants someone to go over then, they can do it and I'll make what suggestions I can. But I don't want to take the time to be it myself. As I go over other records and spot stuff I'll continue to make copies for separate filing and now I'll be more alert to this particular disinformational use.

If he wants to make an FOIA/PA request I can make some suggestions and provide some file numbers. Perhaps other suggestions. I'm not hinting that he propose this. Rather do I mean if by any chance he should ask.

Odd thing in all of this is that it is a variation of the FBI's own disinformation operation which results in critical comment on it without reference to or knowledge of its disinformation operation about which I've said nothing on the chance that more that is relevant will surface. I've found one more record that is relevant but it goes in a different direction, to belittle what Anderson said Garrison told him. It was draft by the tickler man, Long.

